GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2690
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2001
CROP FORECASTING CENTRE
SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Crop Forecasting centres at the Centre as well as State level;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the salient features of the Crop Forecasting Centres; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a) to (c): The Government has set up the National Crop Forecasting Centre (NCFC) in the Ministry of Agriculture to strengthen the process of decision making and management of agriculture sector with the provision of a professional team and infrastructure of computer hardware and software. The NCFC has started functioningwith effect from 3.12.98 with a small professional team, carved out of existing resources of the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation. To begin with the focus of tracking the crop prospects is prioritised to thirteen major crops viz. Rice, Wheat, Maize, Bajra, Tur, Gram, Groundnut, Rapeseed & Mustard, Soyabean, Sugarcane, Cotton, Potato and Onion.

The mandate for NCFC is to provide effective and unified institutional frameworkfor the crop forecasting system involving data flow from different sources, its assimilation and analysis using state-of-the-art methods and techniques.

The State Governments have been asked to nominate a nodal agency forintegration and real-time flow of data/information on a computerised network. Human resource development is also made part of this endeavour.